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THE UNITED STATES FOREST TREE SEED CENTER



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FOREST SERVICE
Southeastern Area, State and Private Forestry
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THE U. S. FOREST TREE SEED CENTER

The United States Forest Tree Seed Center was established at Macon, Georgia, on January 1, 1972, in cooperation with State forestry agencies, universities, and private forest industries of the United States. Its primary purpose is to furnish small lots of tree and shrub seed to forest researchers outside the United States for species introduction trials, provenance research, tree breeding, and similar purposes.

WHY IT WAS ESTABLISHED

The need for a central facility of this kind has been recognized for some time. Forestation, tree improvement and forest genetics activities have expanded throughout the world in an effort to keep pace with the growing demand for wood raw materials. This has triggered an increase in the number of requests from international researchers for seed of indigenous United States forest tree species. The chore of filling these requests has fallen to forest industries, universities and State forestry agencies, and the Federal Government. In the past, USDA's Forest Service has handled requests through its division of Timber Management Research in Washington, D.C. The Seed Center now provides one central location to overcome the duplication of effort experienced in the past by other agencies required to fill such requests. Any request received by another agency can now be forwarded to the Center for prompt handling.

HOW THE PROCEDURE WORKS

Any organization or company receiving a request from an international researcher can forward it to the Seed Center. If the request qualifies under the established policies, the requestor will be sent inventories and price lists. The center will handle all plant quarantine inspections and international shipping arrangements. In most cases, the seed is shipped via Registered Air Mail. Packages over 4 pounds 1.8 kg must be shipped via Air Freight. Charges include the cost of seed processing and air mail shipping expenses. Special payment agreements are made with the consignee if air freight is necessary. Seed shipments are made in polyethylene bags packed in expanded plastic foam pellets. All necessary documents (import permits, phytosanitary certificates, etc.) are prepared before shipping.



SERVICES AVAILABLE

The Seed Center provides seed samples only to forest researchers **outside** the United States and in quantities not to exceed 10,000 seed. Domestic orders are referred to the National Tree Seed Laboratory or commercial sources.

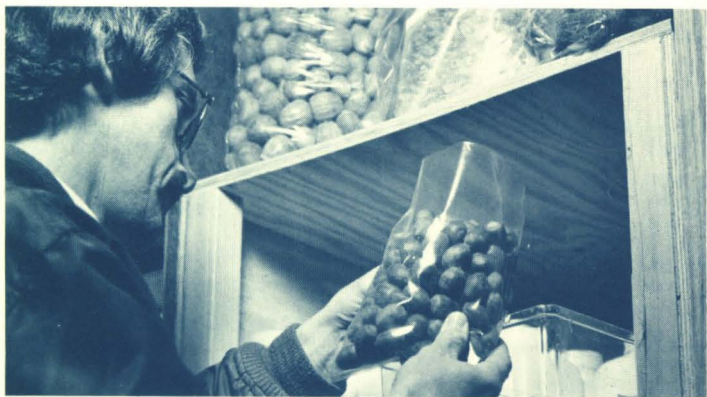
Other services include:

- Providing information on international import and export requirements
- Providing information on international mail regulations
- Providing contacts for seed sources within and outside the United States
- Assisting United States Foresters in importing small, research samples
- Providing information on processing and handling of native tree seed species



SEED INVENTORIES

An inventory of seed stocked by the Center is available upon request. The inventory is composed of three types of seed: general collections, phenotypically superior bulk collections and phenotypically superior clonal collections. Most of the inventory is composed of randomly collected seed from a particular source or location. The phenotypically superior bulk collections are derived from existing seed orchards and represent the best trees physically in a given area. Finally, the phenotypically superior seeds with clonal identification are collections of individual parents in the seed orchard. Each category has a limitation on the maximum number of seeds available.



The Seed Center concentrates on furnishing seed for the most requested species indigenous to the United States, with primary emphasis on the major commercial forest species. More than 1,000 samples of hardwood and conifer seed are represented in the inventory. Collections are made each fall for requested seed not in stock, and for replacement of heavily requested sources. Special requests (one-time collections) are handled as time permits, at the expense of the requestor. The Seed Center also handles requests for both select and random cuttings of cottonwood (*Populus*) and black walnut (*Juglans*).

GENERAL SEED INFORMATION

Amount of seed in number count *only*:

1. General provenance collections:

Available in the following amounts

- (1) 500 or 2,500 seed (lowest cost)
- (2) 5,000 seed
- (3) 7,500 seed
- (4) 10,000 seed (highest cost)

2. Seed orchard bulk lot, phenotypically superior:

1,000 seed maximum (Available only in one amount)

3. Seed orchard seed, phenotypically superior with clonal identification:

100 seed maximum (Available only in one amount)

4. Cuttings and scion wood availability:

(1) Select clones — limit of 25 cuttings per clone

(2) Unidentified cuttings — limit of 100

Shipments of item 4 are made from the United States only from December to March.

Special collections can be made based on cost of acquisition.

Price quotations are available on request.

For further information, current seed inventory, and cost, write:

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Director, U.S. Forest Tree Seed Center

P. O. Box 819

Macon, Georgia 31202

U.S.A.